

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Reports from the Christian County, Covington Independent and Jefferson County School Districts on the status of school and district support plans (Reports from districts under separate cover)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 160.345, KRS 160.346, KRS 158.6455 and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

History/Background:

Existing Policy. Over the last several years, school districts in Kentucky have been held accountable for progress through the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS) and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Both of these accountability systems include consequences for schools and districts not making expected progress.

These three school districts (Christian County, Covington Independent and Jefferson County) have schools that have failed to meet specific requirements under CATS. These districts were asked to report to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to share their plans for meeting CATS goals. Because of the failure to implement previous corrective action plans, Christian County has reported to the KBE on their efforts to meet Adequate Yearly Progress. A chart summarizing the history of these issues is found below.

NCLB	Christian County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christian County previously presented a revised district improvement plan and the superintendent conveyed this improvement plan to the KBE for review.• Christian County has appeared before the board on two occasions to provide updates on the progress they are making.• In July 2008 Brady Link, former Graves County superintendent, was appointed superintendent of the Christian County School District.
CATS	Covington Independent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covington Independent previously presented plans to support the improvement efforts at Holmes Junior/Senior High School and the superintendent conveyed these support plans to the KBE for review.• At the February 2007 meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education voted to transfer school council authority of Holmes Junior/Senior High School to the superintendent.• Covington Independent has appeared before the board on five occasions to provide updates on the progress they are making.• In July 2008 Lynda Jackson, former assistant superintendent, was appointed superintendent of the Covington Independent School District.

CATS	Jefferson County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the summer of 2007, Dr. Sheldon Berman became the new Jefferson County superintendent. • Jefferson County previously presented plans to support the improvement efforts at Southern Leadership Academy and Iroquois Middle School and the superintendent conveyed these support plans to the KBE for review. • In February 2007, the Kentucky Board of Education voted to transfer school council authority of Iroquois Middle School and Southern Leadership Academy to the superintendent. • Under his authority to implement school governance at Southern Leadership Academy and Iroquois Middle, the superintendent of Jefferson County reorganized these schools. The newly reorganized schools are Olmstead Academy South and Olmstead Academy North. This action resulted in these two schools having new accountability goals. • Jefferson County has appeared before the board on four occasions to provide updates on the progress they are making
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Due to the fact that Christian County and Covington Independent School Districts are now under new leadership and the Jefferson County School District has reorganized the two schools, district leadership has been asked by the Kentucky Board of Education to provide their plans for assisting these schools in reaching proficiency. The reports from the districts are under separate cover from the Agenda Book.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

The local district superintendents and boards of education of Christian County, Covington Independent and Jefferson County School Districts have the authority and responsibility to ensure their improvement plans include actions to assist and strengthen low-performing schools and that those actions are fully implemented, monitored, and adjusted to meet the needs of all students. This is essential in assuring that all students in the districts reach proficiency.

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